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MEMORANDUM REPORT
(6-1-60)

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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ORIGIN Field	OFFICE New York, New York	FILE NO. CO-2-34,030
TYPE OF CASE: Protective Research	STATUS: Investigation Continued	TITLE OR CAPTION: Lee Harvey Oswald – Priscilla JOHNSON's 1959 interview with OSWALD, including copies of handwritten notes and resulting articles.
INVESTIGATION MADE AT: Locust Valley, New York	PERIOD COVERED: 11/29/63 to 11/30/63	
INVESTIGATION MADE BY: Special Agent George J. Sershen		

DETAILS

SYNOPSIS

Priscilla Johnson, a journalist, interviewed Lee H. Oswald in 1959 after his defection to the Soviet Union.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

This investigation is predicated on telephone call November 29, 1963 from ASAIC Sweeney, Boston to ASAIC Jukes advising of a request received from SAIC Bouck, Protective Research Section, to interview Miss Priscilla Johnson residing in Cambridge, Massachusetts. ASAIC Sweeney stated inquiry disclosed Miss Johnson was residing in New York, telephone OR 6-2620. ASAIC Jukes telephoned this number and ascertained Miss Johnson was residing on Feeks Lane in Locust Valley, New York.

(Miss) Johnson was interviewed on November 30, 1963 at her home in Locust Valley. She is presently attending the Russian Research Center at Harvard University studying Soviet Literature. In 1959 she was employed as a correspondent for the North American Newspaper Alliance, with offices in New York City, and was representing that firm in Moscow when she was given the assignment of interviewing Lee H. Oswald who had defected to the Soviet Union. She recalled interviewing Lee H. Oswald at the Hotel Metropole in Moscow advising she was aware Oswald's room had been wired. Accordingly, she exercised care in questioning him, especially since he informed her the Soviet authorities had instructed him not to permit any interviews by the American press and he was violating their "trust".

1 att h/w

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Dallas	1 cc.	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	12/2/63

(PRINTING ON PLAIN PAPER)

Miss Johnson had retained the notes she took at the time of her interview with Oswald and exhibited copies of articles she wrote appearing in the Boston Sunday Globe of November 24, 1963 and the Christian Science Monitor of November 26, 1963 relating to her interview with Oswald. The articles are self-explanatory.

According to Miss Johnson, Oswald in her opinion was a "loner", a person who did not mix socially and kept to himself very much. He was a self-taught Marxist who stated he had read Marx's book, Das Capital, when he was only fifteen years of age. He taught himself to read and write Russian and his decision to defect arose out of his bitterness toward the United States, particularly the plight of the American negro and the exploitation of workers. He was reared in poverty and his mother, a widow, had worked extremely hard to bring up her family. He also expressed resentment at his treatment by the U. S. Marine Corps and accused the United States of military imperialism. He informed Miss Johnson that he had petitioned the Soviet Government for citizenship and stated he had no intention of ever returning to the United States.

Miss Johnson stated she questioned him about the manner in which he traveled to Russia suggesting that he must have been aided by other persons or organizations. He specifically stated he made the trip on his own initiative on monies he had saved while in the Marine Corps and that he positively did not receive assistance from any persons or organizations. She attempted to impress upon him the folly of his actions and in a roundabout manner tried to get him to change his mind about defecting but without success. She concluded that he was a fanatic and that further attempts to dissuade him from seeking Russian citizenship would be futile.

In her description of Oswald, Miss Johnson stated he was touching, likeable and quiet. She felt he was a malcontent who was unsure of himself and probably would be unhappy wherever he was. Although she considered him a fanatic, she did not think he would resort to violence. She does not know whether he had been questioned by the Soviet Secret Police but obviously he had received some instructions from a Soviet authority concerning his activities while in Russia. He stayed very close to the hotel and according to his own statement, he did not attempt to establish friendship with any Russians.

Oswald promised to let her know if he was leaving the hotel. When she inquired at the hotel for him two days later she found he had disappeared and concluded the Soviet authorities had whisked him away having naturally learned of the interview. She has not seen him since.

Miss Johnson stated she was interviewed November 23, 1963 by FBI Agents Curry and Sullivan in Boston and that she gave them a deposition concerning her interview with Oswald. She is leaving New York on December 1st for Boston

and on the following day, December 2 is flying to Washington where she has an appointment with Mr. Andrew Lowenfeld of the State Department. Mr. Lowenfeld works in the office of a Mr. Shea, a legal counsel for the State Department. While in Washington she will be staying with her brother, Stewart H. Johnson, Jr. at 2906 N. Street, N.W. and expects to remain there until the end of the week.

Verifax copies were made of the newspaper articles previously referred to, and the notes made by Miss Johnson at the time she interviewed Oswald and are being forwarded with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Copies of 2 newspaper articles
Copies of Miss Johnson's notes

GJS/mm

Oswald Interview in Moscow Recalled

Bitterness Detected in Long Talk

By a Staff Writer of The Christian Science Monitor

What kind of man was Lee Harvey Oswald?

Did this admitted Marxist ever indicate he might be capable of shooting the President of the United States, as Dallas police say he assassinated John F. Kennedy last Friday—just two days before he was similarly shot and killed as the case took on a bizarre twist.

Few people really seem to have known the 24-year-old New Orleans native well. Most describe him as a quiet sort of a person, one who did not mix well—a loner. He gave few the opportunity to really understand him.

But in a rare moment of garrulousness he gave one American such a chance. She is Miss Priscilla Johnson, and at the time she was beginning through a two-year stint in Moscow as a correspondent for the North American Newspaper Alliance.

Interview in Moscow

The time was early November, 1959. The place—the Hotel Metropole, Moscow's principal hotel for foreigners.

Oswald had arrived in the Soviet Union on Oct. 30 that year with the announced intention of seeking Soviet citizenship.

Ten days later Miss Johnson, now doing research at Harvard for a book, learned he was staying at the hotel and asked if he would give her an interview. He said he would, and they talked quite freely for seven hours.

The impression of Oswald that emerges from that meeting is one of a young man intensely bitter at the United States, who displayed absolute single-mindedness about whatever he was attempting to do—at that moment trying to obtain Soviet citizenship.

Is this the sort of man who might have assassinated the President?

Single-Minded Drive

left the Soviet Union . . . he put the same single-mindedness for learning whatever he needed to learn for this act (the assassination).

"He saved every penny he earned in the Marines for the trip to Russia," she said, "and he wangled an early discharge so he could get there a little faster. Within two days of his discharge he was on a boat for the Soviet Union.

"I just think this is the kind of person that might . . . he would have gone about it in a methodical way. He would have learned whatever he needed to know."

Reports Dovetail

This description dovetails with the FBI report that back on March 20 of this year Oswald, using an assumed name, ordered from a mail-order firm the rifle with which President Kennedy was shot during a motorcade in Dallas.

He was bitter, Miss Johnson said, against "capitalism" and "worker exploitation" in the United States—classic Communist as well as Marxist phrases.

But he never expressed any hatred of the presidency or of John F. Kennedy, then a young Massachusetts Senator. "He didn't speak about politics in a personal way."

Capability Indicated

During their long conversation nothing he said indicated he favored using murder as a political weapon.

"But from our conversation, I could see that he was a man capable of a whole lot" because of his gnawing bitterness, she said.

"My mother," he told her, "has been a worker for her whole life. She had to produce profit for the capitalists, and is a good example of what happens to workers in the United States."

"But" she added . . .

marksman, reveal a fondness for guns.

He was, she recalls, "a very plausible young man at first blush. He was very conservatively dressed. He talked extremely quietly, and I rather liked him, and it was because this conversation went on for so many hours that I saw how bitter he was. . . . I saw his completely uneven knowledge about Marxism, which he claimed to be wedded to the name of.

Knew Marxism

"As he talked, you know, I got the idea that he didn't know Marxism at all well," although he claimed "he'd been studying it since 15.

"And it's because he knew Marxism so poorly that I knew it must have been hatred of the United States, rather than a real understanding of what he was doing" that motivated him to renounce his American citizenship and attempt to become a Soviet citizen.

"Also," she said, "he taught himself to read and write Russian from Berlitz [School of Languages], but he said he had a lot of trouble speaking it, and he seemed to be quite helpless.

"He sat in his hotel room, and his mother would telephone from Fort Worth and beg him not to defect, and he just wouldn't answer the phone.

A Trip for Ice Cream

"He wouldn't go out at all into Moscow. And he told me that the one expedition he had made had been to a children's store only one block away, and he recalled that he'd managed to get there by himself and buy himself an ice cream in the crowds."

At this point he had been in the Soviet Union about 10 days.

"He didn't know Russia, and he wasn't very curious about

year when they talked, and people [illegible] were beginning to realize at about that time that the Cuban leader was a Communist.

No Mention of Cuba

Yet never once during the seven-hour interview did Oswald mention Cuba or Castro, though he later became chairman of a Dallas branch of Fair Play for Cuba, a left-wing, pro-Castro group.

After talking a good deal about Marxist philosophy as he understood it, he said at one point: "I have had practical experience in the world. I am not an idealist completely. I have had a chance to watch military imperialism in action," Miss Johnson recalled.

He also told her that "he had seen tremendous poverty in the United States, and he had been shocked by the plight of the Negro."

But again and again he returned to theoretical Marxism. "He said he'd become a Marxist at 15," Miss Johnson recalled.

Bid to Escape

"After five years of reading socialist literature," he told her, "observing treatment of minority groups (Communists, Negroes, and workers especially) watching the treatment of workers in New York and seeing how they're exploited—I'd read about it in socialist literature and thought the description was quite correct."

He indicated he wanted Soviet citizenship primarily to escape the United States society he viewed in such a light.

"Since I'd either be a worker exploited for capitalist profit [in the United States] or else an exploiter," he had said, "I'd [have been] one of the unemployed" rather than assume either role.

At the time "he was terribly bitter against the American Embassy," she said, "because they would not allow him to take the oath renouncing his

ing to him of Soviet citizenship, and the Soviet Government didn't. He was worried when I talked with him."

Their talk was deep and candid. She found him troubled, plausible, and unknowingly emotional.

She never saw him again.

He told her "once the Russians accepted him he would give me his [full] story. . . . He promised to come back with me before he jumped in hotel and went to live as a Russian.

"About two days later I we-

Curb for Carry of Firearms Group

[illegible]

The Massachusetts [illegible] Police Association [illegible] Monday the association [illegible] President Mennery [illegible] a bill by federal [illegible] to control interstate [illegible] firearms.

Chief Thomas [illegible] of Somerville, chairman [illegible] association's [illegible] committee, asked Rep. [illegible] as O'Neill Jr. (D) of Massachusetts to introduce [illegible] legislation. Mr. O'[illegible] 8th District includes Cambridge of Somerville.

"The present weakness in our laws that permit criminals and irresponsible individuals to obtain firearms from without the state of residence in order to circumvent the laws of the state . . . must be remedied," Mr. O'Brien told Mr. O'[illegible]

The police chief's proposal would "prohibit the sale, rental, or lease of a firearm by dealers within the various states to nonresidents of that state who have not complied with all the laws, rules, and regulations of their state of residence pertaining to the acquiring of firearms."

The proposals would apply also to interstate transportation of weapons.

NOT SUBMITTED FOR RECORDING

1

Lee Oswald - 20
of Fort Worth, Texas born in
New Orleans
To US Embassy Oct 31
had my Am. citizenship
such as they wld let me
at time - however I
requested that my citizenship
be solved. Was not allowed
vote on oath that he
intend - Refused to allow
to take oath at that time.
Said they would not allow
to act until confirmation
Sov citizenship.
I relinquished passport
wld not act until
citizenship confirmed -
They have confirmed
that I would not have
dual SU, be forced to,
if I sign Sov refuse
requests for Sov citizenship.
They have said they
investigating possibilities
my continuing my
residence at Metlite -

2.

Left age 17, enlisted, Marine
Corps, discharged in Sept -
14 months in Japan +
Philippines, Indonesia,
France - radar operator
Finished high school while -
while in Marine Corps

Hair brown, gray eyes -
5' 11", 150 lb -
Oct 18, 1939 birth date
Marines 2 yrs, 9 months, 3 days
Overseas 1 yr, 2 months, 24 days
3. in New Or., childhood in
Louisiana + Texas -
NY 2 yrs -
New Louisiana - enlisted
in Dallas
Father died before born -
I believe he was an
insurance salesman.
Had 1 brother -
Good Conduct medal from
Marines
Mother alive + living in Ft.
Worth -

3.

had learning Russian
ago - always with my
[illegible] in the back of
to the Bank [illegible]
have to be able speak it -
ca + teach it -

(Served while in
the Marine Corps -

wld give no statement
if Fair Play Committee
I wld never have said
to anybody [illegible]
wld like to give my side
story, saying [illegible]
give [illegible] to [illegible]
[illegible] leaving here assured
wld not have to return
CPS I assumed it wld
[illegible] for me to give
side of story -
My side was always
wld my discharge
extended -

3. Started learning Russian years ago — along with my other pursuits. Read + write Russian. Still have trouble speaking + understanding Russian. Served while in Marine Corps —

Would if Russians gave no statement it, I would have released anything, I would never have said to anybody.

Old like to give my side of story, since people in Washington have been assured I would not have to return to USSR. I assumed it would be sent for me to return my side of story. Have always been willing to give my side of story, but not willing to be extradited.

Dear Harvey Oswald - 20
1511 Harvey Orleans
New Orleans Texas
Dear Sir:
Need to see Embassy Oct 31
"dissolved" my Am. citizenship
as much as they will let me
at the time - however I
did receive that my citizenship
to dissolved. Was not allowed
to swear on oath that I
renounced
me to take oath at that time.
They said they would not allow
me to act without consultation
my son citizenship.
They will not accept
citizenship
So they came
Said that I would not have
to come to Russia to
see if I can be reborn
my citizenship.
They have said they
are willing to
continue possibility
[illegible]

1. There was Sov Rev mts in late Oct. — no action — ~~this not~~

Been warned that it's not my wish, or even that of Sov officials, but of overall polit. atmosphere that will determine —

It may take years, my Sov citizenship

But I am safe in the knowledge that I can have prolonged stay.

Warned me about trouble I could get into:

1) At first they tried to discourage me

2) I asked to be allowed to take oath — they made excuses so as to refuse oath — Said I should come back, fully knowing I cannot get into Emb. without ~~gaba~~ passp.

3) At Time I → Sov citizen, then "my gov't" will handle it thru usual diplomatic channels —

5. Bitter at refusal —

I was there, Sat., Oct 31, refused on grounds consular official needed time to get papers together — I told them I wanted to make formalities then + there —

I can't be too hard on them, but they are acting in an illegal way, but he is supposed to carry that formality through

Nov. 1, wrote letter of protest to US Ambass., received this letter back — (Protested way Snyder had carried out his duties).

→ "It is a principle of the Am gov't that the right of expatriation is a natural + inherent right of any person + that the manner prescribed by law for renunciation of Am. citizenship is the execution of oath before a diplomatic or consular officer of the U.S. at the estab-

8

"...ffer in #
"You are again informed that you may appear at the Embassy at any time during normal business hours & request that the Emb. prepare the necessary documents for renunciation of citizenship".

Muss. treating it like legal formality, don't encourage you + don't discourage you. They do, of course, warn you, that it is not easy to be accepted as a citizen of SU. But even if I am not accepted, wld. not consider returning to US."

Since 10 days on Intourist. Paying standard room + food rate — I want to make it clear they are not sponsoring me — investigating possib of my studying

9

Did it descent : decent
Did illegal
1) financial
2) you named got a
3) you passport while in
Marines —
Can it resign because,
laugh, that for Officer —
Never seriously considered
desertion

Would you mind if nobody ever knew about it
→ my family + friends in Marines, never know my feelings about reading
2 yrs prep — read up
(2 yrs) to find out exactly how to do it — Not hard —
Was it make ref. to personnel or institution —
Did Intourist know?
Was it say
→ Had interview with Soviet official of Soviet a few days later —

8. Left home New Orleans Sept 19 (?) Fri by ship — 13 days to LeHavre. — booked flight to Helsinki got rouble — & so By train from Helsinki to Moscow — 10 days on vouchers "For the past 2 yrs I have been waiting to do this one thing" — raised voice, stressed — "for 2 yrs, I was waiting to leave Marine Corps, make financial arrangements —

I have had practical experience in world; am not an idealist completely have had chance to watch Am militarist imperialism in action.

Became a Marxist at 15 — Why? I had discovered Socialist lit. at that time; ~~[illegible]~~ ~~discovered~~ & 5 yrs of reading Soc. lit., observing treatment of minority groups: Comm., negroes, + the workers ~~in~~ esp. Watching treatment of workers in NY — the fact that they are exploited —

If I'd read about it in Socialist lit., + I saw that the descrip. was quite correct. Saw I wld → either a worker exploited for cap. prof. & an exploiter, or, since there are many in this category I'd be one of the unemployed

Decision unemotional, not spurred by any fight with wife, since has no wife —

At 15, I was looking for something that wld give me a key to my environment.

My mother has been a worker all her life, has to produce profit for capitalism — a good ex. of what happens to workers in US — declines

"here, if nec., as resident alien —
Marx + Engels —
the standard notes —
One Capital
Am Comm notes —
wouldn't say which
Am Socialists to be
shunned by anyone
interested in prog.
ideology — a dormant
flapping org.
No contact with Am
Comm — only thru
reading lit. + observing.
(I never saw a Comm)
did I conclude it was
best for me, personally.
— Segregation — I was
brought up, like any
Southern boy, to hate
Negroes —
— Then Socialist lit. —
opened my eyes to econ.
reasons for hating Neg.
∴ can keep wages low.
— Japan + Phil —
Am categorically

to say what she does.
Is she old beyond years,
burned out etc.? That's usual
end of people in US.
issue of it —
I don't claim to be
an intellectual genius —
It's end up everyone.
It's a q. of why they
end up that way. For
whom + under what
system they work. It's
duty of everyone to work.

Looks Ivy League —
charcoal gray suit —
white shirt, dark tie
tan cashmere sweater —
I believe that sooner or
later Comm will replace
capitalism —
Cap = defensive
Comm = aggressive
ideal which implants itself
in every system + which
prevs. — voice raised.
I cannot live in
US, so I shall remain

14

13. Although they don't have as many hot water heaters + meat pies, they will in 20 yrs, thru an econ. system which is leaving US far behind.

Any material shortcomings cannot influence me to return —

It's the social system, not the success that attracts me —

At same time SU will undoubtedly pass US — love of art for art's sake.

Have seen tourist attracting people's homes — whole city of Moscow — impression city been cut every put out by gov't is all toward peaceful + cult purposes. People here are so well off — happy + have a lot of faith in future of this country.

Still making poverty not to be seen here

15

12. Hated for mil. imperialism. In Japan you'd expect it — but if you'd even been naval base at Subic Bay Philippines you'd know what I mean —

Sympathized with Comm elements there, their hatred of Am.

Am look upon all foreign peoples as something to be exploited for profit. Only Filipinos who are well off are those who cooperate with Am.

Was part of Indonesian invasion in March, 1958 — Comm — inspired social turnover — Sat off coast with ammunition — enuf.

1956 — Suez crisis. Were told we might have to go in — took part?

I went into Marines because we were poor + I didn't want to be burden on my family.

14. The Russ I meet sym-
pathize, understand —
Ask me why + are very
curious — Understand
when I speak of idealis-
tical reasons that have
brought me here while an
Am. wouldn't understand
interested in material
situation of US workers
Russ don't treat me as
celebrity —

Refers to Sov. gov't +
repeatedly as "my
gov't"
I've already axed
them to prepare papers
I'm sure if I did enter
Emb they'd just give me
the same runaround —
Hence = Sov. citizenship
↳ labor-saving device
dissolve citizenship

Prestige + labor-saving

15. Sov. people, like U.S. sci-
nage — But the prof.
they produce is use
benefit all the peop
They have econ. syst
not based on credit +
speculation —

has a very primitive understan-
ding of economies, that st
at Marx's Das Kapital

18.

can't deny it to do it, but under obligation to see he gives thought —

So said we needed more time get papers, communication with Washington.

Law says we are under oblig. to permit him to renounce. Regulation says must be sure he's of right mind & is not acting rashly. ~~that~~

Nicholas Patrulli:

Webster

16.

My reasons are very strong & good to me —

gave passport to US Emb — along with verbal & written statement

Light Southern accent —

Bitter

Doesn't recommend it for everybody: coming into a new country, always being the outsider — adjusting ~~Protest~~ But I know now that I will never have to return to US

I believe I'm doing right —

Interview With Suspect Oswald in Moscow in 1959

'The Stuff of Which

The author was Moscow Correspondent for NANA in 1959. A few years before, in 1953, she had been research assistant on Viet Nam for John F. Kennedy, then a senator. She is perhaps the only person to have been good friends with both the late President and his suspected assassin. She is today a free-lance writer on Soviet affairs.

By PRISCILLA JOHNSON

(Copyright, 1963, Boston Globe, North American Newspaper Alliance)

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—"For two years now I have been waiting to do this one thing. To dissolve my American citizenship and become a citizen of the Soviet Union."

The time was November, 1959. The place was my room on the third floor of Moscow's Hotel Metropol. The speaker was Lee Harvey Oswald, prime suspect in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

With his suit of charcoal gray flannel, dark tie and tan cashmere sweater, Lee looked, and sounded like Joe College with a slight southern drawl. But his life hadn't been that of a typical college boy.

His father, an insurance salesman, died before he was born. Raised in Texas and Louisiana, the boy spent two years in New York during his early teens. At 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Marines.

"I did it," he said, "because we were poor and I didn't want to be a burden on my mother." Later, he spent 14 months as a licensed radar operator in the Far East.

In September, 1959, his three-year hitch nearly done, the Marines gave Lee a dependency discharge. Just one month later, after an exhausting trip by land, sea and air, he arrived in Moscow to petition the Supreme Soviet, highest legislative body in the U.S.S.R., for Soviet citizenship.

Saw Fanatic

For days, Oswald had been sitting alone in his hotel room, just one floor below mine at the Metropol. He had no friends in Russia and he didn't speak a word of the language. The only sightseeing he'd done was to "Detsky Mir," a children's store one block from our hotel. He'd managed to buy an ice cream cone there, he told me proudly.

As we sat in my hotel room all evening and into the early hours of morning, he talked quietly about his plans to defect to Russia. However, I soon came to feel that this boy was of the stuff of which fanatics are made.

Even though Russian officials warned him Soviet citizenship is not easy to obtain, Lee was already referring to the Soviet Government as "my government." "But," said Lee, "Even if I am not accepted, on no account will I go back to the United States. I shall remain here, if necessary, as a resident alien."

All Soviet officials would promise at the time was that Lee could stay on in Russia whether or not he became a citizen. Meanwhile, they were "investigating the possibility of sending him to a Soviet higher technical institute."

At an age when angry young rebels all over the world find release in aping the beatniks, what brought this serious, soft-spoken southern boy to Moscow with no other ambition but to spend the rest of his life as a Soviet citizen? Evidently, it was a combination of poverty, the plight of the U. S. Negro, and the U. S. Marines.

"My mother," said Lee, "has been a worker all her life. She's a good example," he added, "of what happens to workers in the United States." He declined to elaborate.

"At the age of 15," he added, "after watching the way workers are treated in New York, and Negroes in the South, I was looking for a key to my environment. Then I discovered Socialist literature."

Lee was struck, in particular, by Marx's "Das Kapital." He concluded that, as an American, "I would become either a worker exploited for capitalist profit; or an exploiter or, since there are many in this category, I'd be one of the unemployed." Lee became a Marxist.

Later, as a Marine private in Japan and the Philippines, he "had a chance to watch American militarist imperialism in action."

Year's Planning

Fully a year before, Lee began getting ready to go to Russia. Using a Berlitz grammar, he taught himself to read and write Russian. Never, Lee, a nice-looking young with gray eyes and brown hair, did he consider deserting the Marine Corps.

Did it occur to Lee that Soviet officials might be embarrassed by his efforts to become a citizen of their country at a moment when Russia was cultivating good relations with the United States?

Russian officials, he said, "don't encourage and don't discourage me." They warned, however, that neither Lee's wish, nor theirs, would determine whether his citizenship application was to be accepted. They said it depended on the "over-all political atmosphere at the moment." Meanwhile, they offered Lee the sanctuary of a prolonged stay in the U.S.S.R.

As for officials at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, they were torn between their desire to give Lee time to think it over, and their legal obligation to hear his oath renouncing American citizenship if he insisted.

Lee was bitter at U.S. Consul Richard Snyder, who, he charged, stalled him when he asked to take the oath on Oct. 31, the only time Lee had been at the Embassy. As a result, Lee wouldn't go back there. He would let the Soviet government handle legal details when, and if, he became a cit-

Fanatics Are Made'

ken of the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, he handed over his passport to the American Embassy.

I asked Lee if the ordinary Russians he met expressed surprise at his desire to defect. "Well," he said, "they're very curious and they ask me why. But materialist Muscovites," he added, "understand when I speak of the idealistic reasons that brought me here. And they ask me many questions about conditions of workers in the United States."

'Never Go Back'

Regardless of any material shortcomings in Moscow, Lee insisted he would never go back to the U.S.A. "Emigration," he said, "isn't easy. I don't recommend it to everyone. It means coming to a new country, always being the outsider, always having to adjust. But to me, my reasons are strong and good. I believe I'm doing right."

That was why Lee wouldn't answer the phone when his mother was calling from Ft. Worth, trying to plead with him to return home. He had refused to speak to any American correspondents. Just why he answered when I knocked at his door and why, a few hours later, he came to see me in my room, I never learned.

As our conversation drew to a close--we ate nothing, and had been sipping only tea—I had a terrible feeling of futility. Disillusion, I was sure, awaited him.

As he was leaving I asked him to come see me again. The Russians, Oswald told me, had warned that he mustn't talk to Americans. But he promised, before closing the door, that

he wou
tive wi
me kno

Two
second
the wor
elevator
each roo
Oswald.
a know-
gone," a

I'd wo
pened t
know.